

**AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please amend paragraphs 0014, 0033, and 0046, as follows:

**[0014]** Other characteristics and advantages of the invention will be better understood from the description that follows, with reference to the annexed drawings showing, by way of non-limiting examples, how the invention can be embodied, and in which:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a binding, in a case where a boot is retained, according to a first ~~example of~~ embodiment of the invention;

FIG. 2 schematically shows a view of a linkage of the binding, in a case where the length of the linkage is reduced;

FIG. 3 is a cross-section taken along the line III-III of FIG. 2;

FIG. 4 is similar to FIG. 2, in a case where the length of the linkage is substantial;

FIG. 5 is a view similar to FIG. 1, in a case where the boot is not retained;

FIG. 6 is a partial view of the first band of a linkage of the binding, according to a second ~~example of~~ embodiment of the invention; and

FIG. 7 is a partial view of the first band of a linkage of the binding, according to a third ~~example of~~ embodiment of the invention.

**[0033]** The tightening device 17 has a passage 30 for guiding the band 15. The passage 30 is formed in particular by two wings 31, 32 connected by a bridge 33. A pawl 34 is journalled between the wings along an axis 35. The pawl 34 has a retaining end ~~36~~ 36, provided to oppose a lengthening of the linkage ~~43, 13~~ by engagement of the retaining end 36 with an abutment formed by a tooth 28, and an end forming ~~a~~ the release button 21 to allow disengagement of the retaining end 36 with the abutting tooth. The end 36 is constantly biased toward the bridge 33 by an elastic means, not shown, such as a spring.

[0046] Each of the linkages 13, 14 is lengthened by a manual action from the user, so as to leave a space between the boot and the linkage. When each space is large enough, the boot can be removed from the binding. Given that the straps of the linkages are journalled on the flanges 5, 6 of the binding 1, it is possible to tilt the linkages 13, 14 toward the front of the binding. In the case of the front linkage 13, the tilting is done rotationally along the axes 18, 19. After tilting, such as shown by the front linkage 13 in FIG. 5, the linkages are positioned to extend substantially along a plane parallel to the base 4, that is, along a plane positioned substantially 0° relative to the plane of the upper surface of the base.

Immediately following paragraph 0030, please add new paragraph 0030.1, as follows:

[0030.1] Also, as shown in the drawings, FIG. 2 in particular, between the opening 24 of the fastening end of the first band 16 and the opening 27 of the fastening end 25 of the second band, the first and second bands 15, 16 extend along a straight line III-III prior to assembly to the lateral flanges 5, 6. Stated another way, between their respective pairs of ends 22, 23 and 25, 26, the first and second bands 15, 16, before or after attachment to the lateral flanges 5, 6, extend along a common median plane, as shown in FIG. 2.